<u>**Claim Amendments:**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A surface coating solution comprising:
a surface coating base; and
boehmite particles provided in the surface coating base, the boehmite particles
     comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at
     least 3:1;
wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least about 6 mils.

2. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating base is a water-based solution.

3. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 2, wherein the water-based solution further comprises polymers in an emulsion, the surface coating solution being latex paint.

4. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 3, wherein the latex paint comprises an acrylic.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance greater than about 7 mils.

7. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 6, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance between about 7 and 12 mils.

8. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution is essentially free of associative thickener.

9. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.1% and 20% by weight of the surface coating solution.

10. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 9, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 10% by weight of the surface coating solution.

11. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 10, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

12. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than about 30 minutes.

13. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of at least about 50 nanometers.

14. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 13, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

15. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein said aspect ratio is not less than about 6:1.

16. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of not greater than about 3:1.

17. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 10 m^2/g.

18. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 17, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 75 m^2/g.

19. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 18, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measure by the BET technique between about 100 and about 350 m^2/g.

20. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than about 15 seconds.

21. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the pH of the solution is greater than 7.0.

22. (Previously Presented) A surface coating solution comprising boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least about 3:1 and a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers, wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least about 6 mils.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance of at least 7 mils.

25. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution is essentially free of associative thickener.

26. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

27. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than about 30 minutes.

28. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

29. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have at least a 6:1 aspect ratio.

30. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of no more than about 3:1.

31. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 10 m^2/g.

32. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 31, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least 75 m^2/g.

33. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 32, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measure by the BET technique between about 100 and about 350 m^2/g.

34. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than about 15 seconds.

Claims 35-52 (Canceled)

53. (New) A surface coating solution comprising:
a surface coating base; and
activated boehmite particles provided in the surface coating base, the boehmite particles
comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at
least 3:1;
wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 mils.

54. (New) A surface coating solution comprising activated boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least about 3:1 and a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers, wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 mils.